

The E-rate process is by definition distrustful of local schools and indeed treats the vendors as more trustworthy.

Rather than the lengthy process, just allocate funds by program formula and audit selected districts for compliance with rules.

We are bound by procurement rules, so the SLC doesn't need to do form 470.

We are obligated by our contracts, so form 471 is also unnecessary.

And getting a vendor to award a timely discount or to return a refund in a manner that fits within our fiscal year is nearly impossible.

The vendors like it because they get to keep money in their bank accounts while we work to get our refunds... while they earn interest.

And on top of the interest, they charge surcharges on all their customers to pay for it.

How many companies like Qwest have been audited to see if the surcharges they've collected have all been put into the USF?

Probably few if any... yet the e-rate process is an audit in itself for every single applicant.

This is a very poor expenditure of time and money... funded by our tax dollar.

I only participate because we so badly need funding.